

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/04306

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C23C22/34 C23F3/06 C23G1/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C23C C23F C23G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
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| X | US 6 312 812 B1 (NUGENT JR RICHARD M ET AL) 6 November 2001 (2001-11-06) column 3, line 59 -column 5, line 34 | 1-3,17, 18 |
| Y | column 3, line 59 -column 5, line 34 | 5,7,9, 12,13, 15,16 |
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| Y | claims 1-3,5 | 5,7,9, 12,13, 15,16 |
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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Date of the actual completion of the International search

19 September 2003

Date of mailing of the International search report

26/09/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Torfs, F

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